Appl. No. 10/731,299
Amdt. dated May 27, 2008
Reply to Office Action of November 26, 2007

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A method of collecting an electronic signature for an electronic record stored in a database, the method comprising:

automatically creating an electronic record from data stored in a plurality of different database tables associated with a database transaction in response to an occurrence of a predetermined event;

storing an instance of the electronic record in a common repository of electronic records that provides an audit trail that cannot be altered or disabled by users associated with the database;

executing a rule associated with the electronic record to determine whether an electronic signature is required to connote review and/or approval of the electronic record; and

if execution of the rule results in a determination that an electronic signature is required, marking the instance of the electronic record as unsigned and initiating a request to collect the required electronic signature prior to committing the database transaction to the database.

2. (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving an electronic signature from the user; verifying the electronic signature; and in response to a positive verification of the electronic signature, marking the electronic record as signed.

3. (original): The method of claim 2 wherein the electronic record is stored in a common repository of electronic records that provides an audit trail that cannot be altered or disabled by users of the database.

4. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic record comprises unstructured data in a character large object (CLOB) format.

Appl. No. 10/731,299
Amdt. dated May 27, 2008
Reply to Office Action of November 26, 2007

PATENT

1   5. (original): The method of claim 3 wherein the unstructured data comprises a

2 well formed XML document stored within a column of a table stored in the database.

1   6. (original): The method of claim 4 wherein fields of the electronic record are

2 filled with XML data based on a predefined mapping to multiple data sources.

1   7. (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of, if execution

2 of the rule results in a determination that an electronic signature is required, displaying data from

3 the electronic record on a computer display.

1   8. (original): The method of claim 7 wherein data from the electronic record is

2 display according to a predefined layout set forth in an XSL style sheet.

1   9. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the rule requires a plurality of

2 different electronic signatures and wherein, if execution of the rule results in a determination that

3 a plurality of electronic signatures are required, requesting the plurality of electronic signatures.

1   10. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic record is initially

2 marked as unsigned by setting an appropriate attribute associated with a database table in which

3 at least part of the record is stored.

1   11. (Currently amended): A computer system that manages electronic records

2 stored in a database, the computer system comprising:

3   a processor;

4   a database; and

5   a computer-readable memory coupled to the processor, the computer readable

6 memory configured to store a computer program;

7   wherein the processor is operative with the computer program to:

8   (i) automatically create an electronic record from data stored in a plurality of

9 different database tables <u>associated with a database transaction</u> in response to an occurrence of a

10 predetermined event;

Appl. No. 10/731,299
Amdt. dated May 27, 2008
Reply to Office Action of November 26, 2007

PATENT

11   (ii) store an instance of the electronic record in a common repository of electronic

12   records that provides an audit trail that cannot be altered or disabled by users associated with the

13   database;

14   (iii) execute a rule associated with the electronic record to determine whether an

15   electronic signature is required to connote review and/or approval of the electronic record; and

16   (iv) mark the instance of the electronic record as unsigned and initiate a request

17   to collect the required electronic signature if execution of the rule results in a determination that

18   an electronic signature is required <u>prior to committing the database transaction to the database</u>.

1   12. (original): The computer system of claim 11 wherein the electronic record is

2   stored in a common repository of electronic records that provides an audit trail that cannot be

3   altered or disabled by users of the system.

1   13. (original): The computer system of claim 12 wherein the electronic record

2   comprises unstructured data in a character large object (CLOB) format.

1   14. (original): The computer system of claim 13 wherein the unstructured data

2   comprises a well formed XML document stored within a column of a table stored in the

3   database.

1   15. (original): The computer system of claim 14 wherein fields of the electronic

2   record are filled with XML data based on a predefined mapping to multiple data sources.

1   16. (original): The computer system of claim 11 wherein the processor and

2   computer program are further operative to obtain and verify the electronic signature, and

3   thereafter, mark the electronic record as signed.

1   17. (Previously presented): The computer system of claim 16 wherein the

2   processor and computer program are further operative to initially mark the electronic record as

3   unsigned by setting an appropriate attribute associated with a database table in which at least part

4   of the record is stored.

Appl. No. 10/731,299
Amdt. dated May 27, 2008
Reply to Office Action of November 26, 2007

PATENT

1   18. (Currently amended): A computer program product having a computer-
2 readable storage medium storing a set of code modules which when executed by a processor of a
3 computer system cause the processor to manage electronic records stored in a database, the
4 computer program product comprising:
5   code for automatically creating an electronic record from data stored in a plurality
6 of different database tables <u>associated with a database transaction</u> in response to an occurrence of
7 a predetermined event;
8   code for storing an instance of the electronic record in a common repository of
9 electronic records that provides an audit trail that cannot be altered or disabled by users
10 associated with the database;
11   code for executing a rule associated with the electronic record to determine
12 whether an electronic signature is required to connote review and/or approval of the electronic
13 record; and
14   code for marking the instance of the electronic record as unsigned and initiating a
15 request to collect the required electronic signature if execution of the rule results in a
16 determination that an electronic signature is required <u>prior to committing the database transaction</u>
17 <u>to the database</u>.

1   19. (Previously presented): The computer program product of claim 18 wherein
2 the electronic record is stored in a common repository of electronic records that provides an audit
3 trail that cannot be altered or disabled by users of the system.

1   20. (Previously presented): The computer program product of claim 19 wherein
2 the electronic record comprises unstructured data in a character large object (CLOB) format.

1   21. (Previously presented): The computer program product of claim 20 wherein
2 the unstructured data comprises a well-formed XML document stored within a column of a table
3 stored in the database.

Appl. No. 10/731,299
Amdt. dated May 27, 2008
Reply to Office Action of November 26, 2007

PATENT

1   22. (Previously presented): The computer program product of claim 21 wherein
2 fields of the electronic record are filled with XML data based on a predefined mapping to
3 multiple data sources.

1   23. (Previously presented): The computer program product of claim 18 further
2 comprising code for obtaining and verifying the electronic signature, and thereafter, marking the
3 electronic record as signed.

1   24. (Previously presented): The computer program product of program 23
2 further comprising code for initially marking the electronic record as unsigned by setting an
3 appropriate attribute associated with a database table in which at least part of the record is stored.

1   25. (Currently amended): A method of collecting an electronic signature for an
2 electronic record stored in a database, the method comprising:
3   automatically creating an electronic record in response to an occurrence of a
4 predetermined event from data stored in a plurality of different database tables associated with a
5 database transaction, wherein the electronic record comprises unstructured, well-formed XML
6 data stored in a character large-object (CLOB) format;
7   storing an instance of the electronic record in a common repository of electronic
8 records that provides an audit trail that cannot be altered or disabled by users associated with the
9 database;
10   executing a rule associated with the electronic record to determine whether an
11 electronic signature is required to connote review and/or approval of the electronic record; and
12   if execution of the rule results in a determination that an electronic signature is
13 required, marking the instance of the electronic record as unsigned;
14   requesting the electronic signature;
15   after obtaining the electronic signature, verifying its authenticity; and
16   if the electronic signature is verified as authentic, marking the electronic record as
17 signed prior to committing the database transaction to the database.